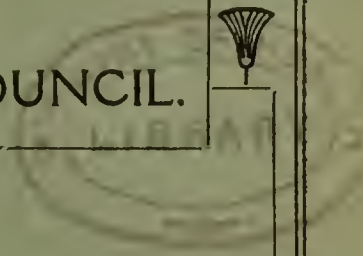




BLAYDON
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER, 1940.

SWALWELL,
A. A. FLETCHER & SON, GENERAL PRINTERS, FOUNDRY LANE,
1941.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

Medical Officer of Health—

T. MORRISON CLAYTON, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector—

TAYLOR P. VEITCH, M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors—

GEO. E. RENWICK, M.S.I.A.

WILSON JOYCE, M.S.I.A.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL OFFICES, BLAYDON.
NOVEMBER, 1941.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Blaydon Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my Second Annual Report, being that for the year 1940.

With the advent of war in the latter part of 1939, the work of your Public Health Department underwent radical changes.

The Housing Schemes of the Authority came to a standstill and it must be safe to assume that the re-housing of further sections of the population will be held up for some considerable time after the cessation of hostilities. It is somewhat disconcerting that the shortage of labour and materials has made the correction of defects to property extremely difficult.

The Health and Sanitary Services within the area have maintained a satisfactory level in spite of present day conditions, although it must be obvious that normal routine has been impossible in view of war time diversions.

The activities of your staff in various channels connected with Civil Defence and the war effort are considerable, and have inevitably involved much time and energy on their part. I am much indebted to them and would record my thanks for their loyal co-operation throughout the year.

It is worthy of special mention that the Infantile Mortality Rates for 1939 and 1940 have reached new low levels, indeed that for 1939, at 52 per 1000 live births, was the lowest ever recorded in this district.

Statistical tables are appended, including that of the Registrar General.

My thanks are due to Dr. J. W. H. Morrison, the Surveyor, Rating Department, Nursing Associations, and to the Manager of the Blaydon Labour Exchange for various items of information included in this report.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

T. MORRISON CLAYTON,

Medical Officer of Health.

Medical Officer's Annual Report.

Area.

The acreage remains at 9,247 in accordance with the settlement of boundaries in 1936, and the density of population per acre = 3·16.

Population.

The Registrar General's estimate of population is 29,260.

The mid-1938 estimate was at 30,790, while the 1931 census showed a population of 32,263. It will therefore be apparent that the diminution in the population since the 1931 census, still continues, and must in no small measure be due to enlistment in H.M. Forces, and the transference of labour to industries outside the area.

Number of Inhabited Houses, 31st December, 1940	8,351.
Rateable Value, 1st October, 1940	£119,561.
Sum represented by 1d. Rate, 1st April, 1940	£435 - 12 - 5.

Boundaries, Physical Features and Social Conditions of the Area.

The Blaydon Urban District, situated in the north-west of Durham County, consists of four Wards, namely, Blaydon, Winlaton, Rowlands Gill and Chopwell, and is bounded on the north-west from Frenches Close along the Coal Burn, Barlow Burn and Blaydon Burn to the southern boundary of the Blaydon Burn Tar Works, thence across the Beweshill Lane to Stargate Village, proceeding via the Colliery Wagonway, across Hexham Old Road and the Scotswood - Hexham Road at Hedgefield House, to the River Tyne near the Saw Mill, Stella.

On the north by the River Tyne to its junction with the River Derwent at Derwenthaugh.

On the south-east by the River Derwent via Winlaton Mill, Rowlands Gill and Lintzford to its junction with the Milkwell Burn at Blackhall Mill,

On the west by the Milkwell Burn to Ravenside, thence by field hedges (Northumberland County Boundary) to Labourne's Fell and Leadgate, proceeding along the Clinty Burn and Red Burn to Frenches Close.

The chief industry in the district is coal-mining, while agriculture furnishes the next most important source of employment. The district is, generally speaking, hilly, with Blaydon and Rowlands Gill lying in the lower positions, while Winlaton and especially Chopwell, occupy the higher levels.

Unemployment.

The following table indicates the state of unemployment during 1940 in comparison with previous years:—

		1937	1938	1939	1940
Blaydon	...	430	419	333	391
Winlaton	...	322	225	130	190
Rowlands Gill	...	230	114	176	201
Chopwell	...	408	510	313	310
	Totals	1390	1268	952	1092

The slight rise in the figures indicated for 1940 is due to the position in the mining industry.

Extracts from the Vital Statistics of the Year.

		Total	M.	F.	
LIVE BIRTHS	{ Legitimate	477	240	237	{ Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population mid-1940 = 16.30.
	{ Illegitimate	19	11	8	
STILL BIRTHS	...	21	10	11	{ Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births = 42.16.
DEATHS	...	369	220	149	{ Death Rate per 1000 estimated average population = 12.61. Comparability Death Rate = 14.12.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

(Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's Short List)

		Deaths	Rate per 1000 total (live and still) Births.
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis	...	nil.	nil.
No. 30 Other Puerperal causes	...	2	4.01.
	Total	2	4.01

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age.

All infants, per 1000 live births	58·70.
Legitimate infants, per 1000 legitimate live births ...	56·77.
Illegitimate infants, per 1000 illegitimate live births ...	105·26.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	41.
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	2.

Births.

The total number of live births registered during 1940 was 477, of which 240 were male and 237 were female, and of the above total 19 were illegitimate.

The natural increase of the population for the year (i.e. the excess of births over deaths) was 108.

21 still births occurred during the year and all were legitimate.

For comparative purposes the 1939 figures are appended:-

No. of live births ...	519 (270 M., 249 F.)
No. of illegitimate births	9
No. of still births ...	31

The birth rate for the year was 16·30 per 1000 population. That for England and Wales was 14·6, and for the administrative county 17·1.

Deaths.

The total number of deaths during 1940 was 369, of which 220 were male and 149 female, giving an annual death rate of 12·61 per 1000 population (Comparative death rate = 14·12 per 1,000.)

Death rate for England and Wales = 14·3 per 1,000.

Death rate for administrative county = 13·0 per 1,000.

The chief causes of death were as follows:-

Heart disease 84. Cancer 41, Other diseases of circulatory system 21, Intra-cranial vascular lesions 37, Respiratory diseases other than Tuberculosis 54, Tuberculosis (all forms) 17.

Infantile Deaths.

There were 28 infantile deaths recorded (20 male and 8 female) giving an infantile mortality rate of 58.7. This compares favourably with the infantile mortality rate for England and Wales at 55, and for the administrative county at 63.

It is worthy of record and a cause for satisfaction that in two years 1939 - 40, new low records were reached in the infantile mortality rate, not only in Blaydon, but throughout the country as a whole.

A graph is appended (page 9) comparing the gradual fall in the infantile mortality rates during the last 20 years in Blaydon, Durham County and England and Wales.

The chief causes of death were Congenital Debility and Premature Births, 17.

Maternal Mortality.

Two maternal deaths were recorded during the year, (1939 = 2), and the maternal mortality rates (1938, 1939 and 1940) for this district, the administrative county and England and Wales are as follows:-

	1938	1939	1940
Blaydon Urban District	5.89	3.63	4.03
Administrative County	5.39	4.99	3.32
England and Wales ...	5.94	2.82	2.16

It will be noticed that the 1940 figure for Blaydon is above that for the preceding year in spite of the fact that the number of deaths was the same, i.e. 2. This of course is, in the main part, due to a big reduction in the population of 1,300.

Laboratory Facilities.

All specimens for bacteriological examination are sent to the Public Health Laboratory, King's College, Newcastle upon Tyne, with which the Durham County Council has an agreement.

The majority of such specimens are examined free of cost to both practitioners and patients.

150 specimens were examined during 1940.

Graph comparing the Infantile Mortality Rates of Blaydon, Durham County, and England and Wales since 1921.



Bacteriological Examinations from Blaydon District, 1940.

ENTERIC FEVER.				DIPHTHERIA			TUBERCULOSIS			* MISCELL- ANEOUS			TOTALS		
Serological Examinations.															
Positive		Negative	Incon- clusive												
Typh- osus	Para- typh- osus B.			P	N	I	P	N	I	P	N	I			
—	—	1	—	17	64	6	7	46	2	7	-	26	118	6	

P - Positive.

N - Negative.

I - Inconclusive.

*This section is composed of examinations receiving the special approval of the County Medical Officer for Cerebro-spinal Fluid, Haemolytic Streptococci, Faeces Virulence, Tubercle Urine, Brucella Abortus and Gaertner and Diphtheria culture.

Ambulance Facilities.

The Priestman Collieries provide two ambulances, and the Conssett Iron Company provide one ambulance for the transport of accidents and cases of sudden illness, etc., occurring among their employees. There are also two public ambulances in the district.

The Conjoint Hospital Committee for Blaydon, Ryton and Whickham provides one ambulance for the transport of infectious diseases.

District Nursing.

The District Nursing throughout the Blaydon area is carried on most efficiently by State Registered Nurses, who are appointed by the various Nursing Associations, which are maintained by voluntary effort.

Subscriptions are made by the majority of workmen, who allow deductions from their wages; generous donations are given by the many collieries, benevolent funds and wellwishers in the district, while grants are made through the Durham County Nursing Association and the Public Assistance Committee.

The names of the various associations, together with the details of nursing, are as follows:-

	Association.	Nurses	Cases	Home Visits	Surgery Attendances
1—BLAYDON	The Napier-Clavering Memorial District Nursing Fund	1	115	3421	—
2—CHOPWELL	Chopwell Nursing Association ...	1	538	4000	1767
3—ROWLANDS GILL	Spen, Victoria Garesfield & Rowlands Gill District Nursing Association	2	851	4906	3807
4—WINLATON	Winlaton and District Nursing Association	1	210	4113	—

The Spen, Victoria Garesfield and Rowlands Gill District Nursing Association provides and maintains one ambulance, which during 1940, made 228 journeys.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

Minor ailments clinics for school children, dental, sun-ray, and maternity and child welfare clinics are provided by the County authorities at various centres throughout the district.

Hospital Provision.

Infectious Diseases. The Conjoint Infectious Diseases Hospital at Norman's Riding, Winlaton, serves the needs of the Blaydon district, besides admitting similar cases from the Ryton and Whickham Urban districts.

In the event of smallpox occurring in the district, the Joint Hospital Committee has made provision for such cases to be treated at Howden Bank Hospital under the County Smallpox Scheme.

Tuberculosis. Durham County Council has provided various sanatoria for the treatment of tuberculous cases throughout the county; the number of beds available for this purpose is 588.

The nearest tuberculosis dispensary is at Whickham (two miles distant).

General. The Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle, receives the greater proportion of medical and surgical cases from the Blaydon district, and also provides a convalescent home for both males and females, which is situated on the western boundary of the Ryton Urban District, 100 beds are available.

Midwifery and Gynaecology, Of those midwifery and gynaecological cases sent to hospital, most find their way to the Princess Mary Maternity Hospital, and to the Gynaecological Department of the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle.

Venereal Diseases. The County Council has an arrangement whereby such cases are treated at the Venereal Diseases Clinic, City Hospital, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne.

I have received the following report from the Senior Sanitary Inspector:-

Sanitary circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply. No alteration took place in the sources of supply from those existing in former years. The supply in the western part of the district and Winlaton is obtained from Durham County Water Board, and in the eastern district from Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co. The water is of good quality, continuous and plentiful.

Closet Accommodation. During the year 2 ash-closets were converted into water-closets, and at the end of the year there were in the district 7,533 water-closets, 485 ash-closets, and 157 ash-pit privies.

Scavenging. Except Barlow, Coalburns and Sherburn Green, where the scavenging is carried out by local farmers, the whole of the district is scavenged by the Council under the supervision of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

The stock employed at the end of the year comprised three 3 ton Vulcan Wagons, one horse and one 4 wheeled pneumatic-tired wagon.

Controlled tipping is carried out at the Blaydon, Stampley Moss, Spen and Chopwell tips.

Salvage. In June an organised salvage collection of paper, metals and bones was instituted, and in July the collection of kitchen waste was added. By the end of the year the collections

were proceeding fairly satisfactorily. The result is shown in the following tabulated statement.

Salvage Yield per 1,000 population.

Month.	Paper (cwts)	Metals (cwts)	Bones (lbs)	Kitchen Waste (cwts)	Sterling Income per 1000 popul'tn
June ...	4	10	57	—	1.5
July ...	9	19	58	—	4.4
August ...	11	17	90	3	5.4
September ...	0	17	102	4	3.1
October ...	6	2	158	7	3.3
November ...	7	14	103	8	5.2
December ...	1	20	103	8	2.9
Average per mth.	5	14	96	6	3.7

One baling press was purchased for baling waste paper.

Shops and Offices. Visits were made to shops and while in some cases it was noted that alterations were required to comply with Section 10 of the Shops Act, 1934, it was deemed advisable to defer these alterations until the termination of the war.

In one case a nuisance arising from storage of refuse at a fish and chip shop was investigated and remedied.

Smoke Abatement. No observations were taken during the year.

Camping Sites. There are no camping sites in the area.

Swimming Baths and Pools. There are no swimming baths or pools in the area.

Picture Halls. There are nine picture halls in the area, visits were made and generally it was found that they were kept in a clean condition and that the sanitary accommodation was in good order.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919. The contract with the Durham County Council for the services of their Rat Officer at our tips and sewage works was renewed, and throughout the year regular visits were made with satisfactory results.

Eradication of Bed Bugs. The number of houses found to be infested with bed bugs and disinfested during the year is as follows:-

Council Houses	1.
Private Houses	2.
	—
	3.

The disinfection was carried out in the following manner:-

All picture rails, skirtings and architraves are removed, and the walls stripped of paper; after all internal surfaces have been sprayed with Germicidal disinfectant or paraffin oil, the house is fumigated with a proprietary fumigant. Approximately 10 days later a second spraying and fumigating is carried out. In the case of private houses the owner or agent undertakes the work of removing picture rails, etc.

Factories and Workshops. No action was taken during the course of the year.

Bake-houses. Visits were made to the six bake-houses in the district and they were found to be kept in a cleanly condition.

Housing. Owing to the war, routine inspection of houses was not carried out. Action has been taken where necessary by Informal Notice. Demolition of unfit properties is postponed.

Milk Supply.

(a) Milk & Dairies Order, 1926.

Visits were made to cowsheds, dairies and milkshops in the area, and generally the premises were found in a satisfactory condition.

(b) Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

Applications for renewal of licences to sell graded milk in the Council's area under the above Order were made as follows:-

Pasteurised Milk—2 Dealers' Licences.

1 Supplementary Licence.

As the Council declines to penalise anyone who wishes to supply graded milk, the licences were granted without payment of fees.

Three farms in the area are producing Accredited Milk.

Meat and other Foods. Inspections of premises where food is prepared or manufactured for sale were made, and in a number of cases structural alterations were found to be required to make the premises in all respects fit, but these were deferred until cessation of hostilities. Generally the premises and utensils were kept in a cleanly condition.

During visits to these premises the following quantity of meat found to be unsound was surrendered and so disposed of to prevent it being used for the food of man:-

10 sheeps' heads and 10 sheeps' plucks.
 1 hind-quarter of beef.
 1 gammon end of a side of bacon.
 26 pigs' plucks.

Slaughter Houses. There are 14 slaughter houses in the district, but since the introduction of centralised slaughtering, no slaughtering has been carried out in the area,

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Housing—	Structural Defects remedied ...	...	32.
	Foul conditions ...	...	3.
	Water services repaired ...	...	5.

Drainage—	New drains laid and tested ...	...	2.
	New inspection chambers built ...	...	2.
	Defective yard paving repaired ...	...	—
	Other drainage faults ...	...	12.

Sanitary Conveniences—

	Water closet defects remedied...	...	6.
	Ash closets converted into water closets		2.
	New water closets provided (replacements)		2.
	Defective ash bins replaced ...	...	—
	Ashpits and privy defects remedied ...	...	1.
	Other Nuisances ...	...	3.

Infectious Diseases—

	Number of houses and lots of bedding disinfected after infectious diseases ...	80.
--	--	-----

Details of New Houses erected and occupied during 1940.

Only one 4 roomed detached bungalow was erected during the course of the year.

The number of houses in the district is as follows:-

Blaydon	...	...	...	2024
Stella	...	..	...	176
Winlaton	...	...	...	1946
Barlow	...	...	...	94
High Spen	...	...	...	719
Rowlands Gill	...	...	...	753
Victoria Garesfield and Highfield	...		...	496
Lintzford	...	...	...	24
Chopwell	...	...	...	1363
Blackhall Mill	...	...	...	272
Winlaton Mill	...	..	...	357
				8,224.

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious Diseases.

During the year there was a considerable increase in the total number of cases notified, namely 414 as compared with 218 for the preceding year, (401 in 1938)

The increase was almost entirely due to the cases of Measles notified (268) as compared with 5 during the last quarter of 1939, when the Measles & Whooping Cough Regulations came into force, and prior to which such cases had not been notified in this district.

It is pleasing to note a reduction in the cases of Scarlet Fever, only 20 being notified as against 92 during 1939.

Enteric.

There were 3 positive cases of Enteric Fever notified during 1940. The infection was by the *Bacillus Paratyphosus B.* On investigation, no local carriers were found but an indefinite vehicle of infection, namely synthetic cream, was suspected.

Smallpox,

There have been no cases notified since April, 1938.

Diphtheria.

71 cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year and removed to hospital, and of these 9 died, giving a fatality rate of 12·67%, as compared with 2·66% for 1939 (2 deaths)

Scarlet Fever.

20 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year and removed to hospital. No deaths occurred.

During 1939, 92 cases were notified with 1 death.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

During the year 4 cases were notified, and of these none were treated at Norman's Riding Hospital. During 1939, 4 cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were notified.

Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.

9 cases were notified and removed to Norman's Riding Hospital for treatment. 1 death occurred, giving a fatality rate of 11·1%. No cases were notified during 1939.

Erysipelas.

15 cases were notified during the year, as compared with 14 cases notified during 1939, and 4 were treated in hospital.

Measles and Whooping Cough.

During 1940, there were 268 cases of Measles and 21 cases of Whooping Cough notified.

2 cases of Complicated Measles were treated in Norman's Riding Hospital.

Artificial Immunisation.

(a) Diphtheria prophylaxis was commenced in the Blaydon area during 1936, and from April, 1936, until December, 1940, 3,147 subjects were inoculated.

During 1940, there were 468 children immunised and 44 partially immunised, involving 980 injections.

The County Council has kindly co-operated in allowing us the use of their clinics and the assistance of their Nursing Staffs at Axwell Park, Chopwell and Rowlands Gill. Clinics are held at suitable times.

(b) It is interesting to note that of 63 children under 15 years who were notified as suffering from Diphtheria during 1940, only 2 had been completely immunised and 2 had been partially immunised.

(c) The prophylactic used for immunisation purposes is an Alum Precipitated Toxoid produced by Messrs Burroughs Wellcome & Co.

Pneumococcal Typing.

There are no local facilities available for the Typing of Pneumococci, although such facilities could no doubt be inaugurated should the necessity arise.

Measles Prophylaxis and Attenuation.

At the present there are no local facilities available for the use of serum for Measles Prophylaxis or Attenuation; this also is a matter which, I have little doubt, could be given consideration should the necessity arise.

**Cases of Infectious Diseases notified
during the year 1940.**

DISEASE.				Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital at Normans Riding.	Total Deaths
Small-pox	...	...	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	20	20	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	71	71	9	—
*Enteric Fever	...	...	4	4	—	—
Puerperal Fever	...	...	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	1	1	—	—
Pneumonia (Lobar)	...	...	16	1	—	—
Erysipelas	...	...	15	4	—	—
Other Diseases	...	...	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	4	—	—	—
Dysentery	...	...	—	—	—	—
Measles	...	...	268	2	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	21	—	—	—
C. S. M.	...	...	9	9	1	—

* 3 cases only proved to be positive.

Analysis of Cases into Age Groups.

Disease	Under 1 Year	1 - 2 Years	2 - 3 Years	3 - 4 Years	4 - 5 Years	5 - 10 Years	10 - 15 Years	15 - 20 Years	20 - 35 Years	35 - 45 Years	45 - 65 Years	65 Yrs. & over	Total
Scarlet Fever ...	..	1	1		1	11	3	2	1				20
Diphtheria ...	..	1	3	4	6	33	17	4	3				71
Enteric Fever ..	..					1			2				3
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	..									1			1
Pneumonia ...						1			2	1		1	9
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4												4
Erysipelas ...	..								3	2	10		15
Dysentery ...	..												
Whooping Cough ...	..	1	4	7	3	6							21
Measles ...	..	30	29	26	35	129	6				1		268
Cerebro-spin. Meningitis	2					1			4	1	1		9

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and Mortality during 1940.

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1								
5	1	1		5				
15	6	3		1	1	2		
25	4	2			2			
35		2			2	3		
45	5	1			3	1	1	
55	1				1			
65 and upwards	2				1			
Totals ...	19	9		6	10	6	1	

Ratio of non-notified tuberculous deaths to total
tuberculous deaths = 1 : 17.

**THE REGISTRAR GENERAL'S SHORT LIST OF CAUSES OF
DEATH DURING 1940.**

CAUSES OF DEATH					MALES	FEMALES
1	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	...	...	...	—	—
2	Measles	...	...	...	—	—
3	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	—	—
4	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—
5	Diphtheria	...	...	...	6	3
6	Influenza	...	...	...	5	—
7	Acute Infective Encephalitis	...	...	...	1	1
8	Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	...	—	1
9	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	9	6
10	Other Tuberculous diseases	...	...	...	1	1
11	Syphilis	...	...	...	—	1
12	Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	24	17
13	Diabetes	...	...	...	1	3
14	Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	...	...	...	21	16
15	Heart disease	...	...	...	41	43
16	Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	14	7
17	Bronchitis	...	...	...	21	13
18	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	10	2
19	Other Respiratory diseases	...	...	...	5	3
20	Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	—	—
21	Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	2	—
22	Appendicitis	...	...	...	4	—
23	Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	6	4
24	Acute and chronic nephritis	..	...	...	6	6
25	Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	—	—
26	Other puerperal causes	...	...	...	—	2
27	Congenital debility, premature birth and malformations, etc.	...	...	...	11	6
28	Suicide	...	...	...	2	—
29	Other violence	...	...	...	5	1
30	Road Traffic Accidents	..	...	...	3	—
31	All other causes	...	...	...	22	13
					220	149

Total Number of Deaths - 369.

